

PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 16, 2021

WHAT MATTERS?

A Brainstormed List of Conservation Issues of Concern

The Council met on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 to begin the process for identifying the conservation issues of greatest concern for our Pennsylvania Audubon chapters. There were thirty-two chapter representatives registered from fourteen of our twenty-one chapters in the state. The meeting featured six concurrent breakout groups charged with the task to generate the conservation and advocacy issues of greatest concern. The groups engaged in brainstorming sessions facilitated by **Phil Witmer** from the Valley Forge Audubon Society. The set up and reports of each of the six groups was recorded and transcribed below. The color-coding is an attempt to connect the various ideas with one or more of the breakout groups. As the list reflects, many issues were identified by more than one of the breakout groups. Special thanks are due to **Sherry Krider**, Wyncote Audubon, and **Heidi Shiver**, Bucks County Audubon and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council for crafting this document.

BIRD SAFE WINDOWS/LIGHTS OUT

-Discussions with Bird safe buildings act- federal building being required to update facilities

List Model Bird-friendly Building Ordinances;

-Bird Safe windows

reducing bird collisions,

Bird-window collisions – promote ordinances and wise construction of new buildings (windows) and light use

Windows and birds.

Support to reduce window strikes;

-Lights out Philly- work to persuade building owners to turn of lights at night during migration.

Lights Out & Dark Skies Initiatives;

Lights Out Erie and PA;

HABITAT/NATIVE PLANTS

Habitat destruction;

habitat restoration;

Invasive species, overpopulation.

invasive species control;

-Need for eradication of invasive plant species

allowing invasive species to colonize habitat

improve native habitat & support native plants;

Model Native Plant Ordinances;

Management of invasive plant and animal species

forest fragmentation;

redefine National Forests;

Habitat fragmentation and disturbance to forest habitat;

Protect habitat and ecosystems for carbon capture, watershed protection

Budget Appropriation Bill mandating ATV connector trails

Room 6 ATV trails;

Bring back the Important Bird Areas in Pa

Urban sprawl.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

We lack an energy policy.

energy development - wind, solar, pipelines, and their footprint.

Renewable energy and its effect on biodiversity, forest fragmentation.

**-Developments of wind energy and proper placement of energy sources
make sure renewable energy sites properly placed;**

promoting renewable energy and solar & wind placement (climate change);

Wind Turbine & Large Solar siting;

banning fracking;

-Marcellus Shale and environmental impacts

**-Efforts in cleaning up Coal mining wastes and abandoned mines
gas industry;**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and messaging.

-Climate change- nationally

promoting renewable energy and solar & wind placement (climate change);

Climate change – get involved in local actions to address climate change

REGULATE POLLUTION/POISONS/PLASTICS/RISKS TO BIRDS

Bills that exploit the environment; help in differentiating which initiatives are worthy of our attention.

Plastics in the environment.

outlaw single use plastic,

-Problem of plastics in the environment- all kinds of plastic pollution

plastic bags & single use plastic bans;

Pesticides – promote limited use and use of natural methods, as well as education

Rodenticides and pesticides.

pesticides and herbicides reduction;

pesticides;

outlaw lead bullets, outlaw plastic shotguns shells,

Lead Ammo;

illegal if cats outdoors;

keeping cats indoors

Outdoor Cats;

-Pollution in general

**-Pollution intervention with Gas stations being placed near wetlands Ex. Old Crow in Huntingdon County, and a
Rutters being proposed in Blair Co. Pincroft exit- Sabbath Rest wetlands**

Pollution - Light, water

-Clean water for people and wildlife

Clean water;

enforcement of litter laws;

Pests and diseases.

-Spotted Lantern Flies- sticky tape- emerging issue

WATER

stormwater control;

controlling runoff into waterways;

water quality including septic systems and sewage treatment plants;

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Big Four: Habitat; Climate; Pollution; Energy Development

Deer.

Urban vs Rural disconnect.

Messaging about conservation.

Strategies for building trust.

municipal public education; promotion Environmental Advisory Councils across the state;

securing adequate and ongoing state funding for the environment; DEP independence from legislative interference.

-More funding for wildlife refuges- with corridor crossing over highways

-Encourage diversity, equity and inclusion

EE Standards;

DCNR/DEP Funding;

Environmental education – maintain and promote (in PA schools)

Support wildlife rehab centers

Bring back the Important Bird Areas in Pa. We need to know the details on these designations and how we can use this tool to promote habitat protection at local and state levels.

Coordinating with other local and statewide environmental advocacy groups on these issues.